

Amendment to the Claims

1-3. (Cancelled)

4. (New) A grinding wheel comprising:

a cup-shaped core having an end face delimited by an outer peripheral rim and an inner peripheral rim;

an abrasive grain layer formed of abrasive grains firmly fixed to said end face of said cup-shaped core by brazing such that the abrasive grains are fixed to said end face by a brazing material layer; and

a continuous groove formed in a substantially central portion of said end face of said cup-shaped core so as to define an outer surface region and an inner surface region,

wherein said abrasive grains are firmly fixed to the inner and outer surface regions of said end face by the brazing material layer excluding outer and inner circumferential portions of both of the inner and outer surface regions,

wherein, with respect to all of the abrasive grains, skirts of the brazing material layer have a length of one or more times an average grain size of the abrasive grains.

5.(New) The grinding wheel according to claim 4, wherein the size of the abrasive grains in the outer surface region is different than the size of the abrasive grains in the inner surface region such that the outer surface region is adapted for coarse grinding and the inner surface region is adapted for finish grinding.

6.(New) The grinding wheel according to claim 5, wherein the spacing of the abrasive grains in the outer surface region is different than the spacing of the abrasive grains in the inner surface region.

7.(New) The grinding wheel according to claim 4, wherein the spacing of the abrasive

grains in the outer surface region is different than the spacing of the abrasive grains in the inner surface region.

8.(New) The grinding wheel according to claim 5, wherein flat portions are formed on extremities of said abrasive grains in the inner surface region.

9.(New) The grinding wheel according to claim 6, wherein flat portions are formed on extremities of said abrasive grains in the inner surface region.

10.(New) The grinding wheel according to claim 7, wherein flat portions are formed on extremities of said abrasive grains in the inner surface region.